

unprocessed pixels. The emphasis filter applies a plurality of filter coefficient to the same image in parallel. To select one of the processed results, the intensity information is used to define a strong emphasis result. Using the emphasis filter result, a 1/N weak correction unit 38 applies a 1/Nth correction amount to generate a weak emphasis result. A smooth process unit 39 further filters out a wide range of the input data to generate smoothly transitioned pixel positions by effectively eliminating the noise. Among the strong emphasis result, the weak emphasis result and the smoothed result, an edge processing unit 40 applies an appropriate process based upon an edge signal that is indicative of an outline portion. Based upon the edge signal and the image reproduction mode from the operational unit, the selection path is switched.

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims

43. The method of processing image data according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined coefficients are stored in gamma correction tables, one of the gamma correction tables being selected based upon said outline characteristics.

44. The system for processing image data according to claim 26 wherein said storage unit stores the predetermined coefficients in a plurality of gamma correction tables, said space filter process unit selecting one of the gamma correction tables being based upon the outline characteristics and the image intensity level.